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surface." Entirely untrue for vast areas. Argentine "ranks third in wheat." The last Year Book of the United States Department of Agriculture, out when the author wrote, gave the millions of bushels for 1908 as: United States, 737; Russia, 711; France, 356; India, 283; Italy, 165, and Argentina, 162. The International Institute of Agriculture at Rome, for the crop of 1910-11, puts Germany, Spain, Hungary and Canada also above the Argentine Republic; for the previous year all of them but Hungary. Cattle and corn are nearly as much misrepresented. Argentine sheep, he says, would form a solid column of twos all the way from New York to San Francisco! As a matter of fact, they would make a column of twelves! Calle Reconquista (Reconquest Street), reminds us that the British (p. 19) *succeeded* in their attempt to capture the city of Buenos Ayres in 1805. Patagonia was divided, not "a few years ago," but in 1881. The rain of fish (p. 90) in the Chaco doubtless refers to the *Lepidosiren* buried in the mud through the dry season (*Bulletin*, June, 1911, p. 458). The pictures are well selected.

MARK JEFFERSON.

Le Brésil au XX^e siècle. Par Pierre Denis. Deuxième Édition. 307 pp. Librairie Armand Colin, Paris, 1909. F. 3.50.

The book is much more than a geography (and a first-class one, too) of Brazil; politics and economics are dwelt on as thoroughly as geography, while the relations to geographical conditions are laid open everywhere. For one who wants to learn "all about Brazil" in the shortest and most instructive way, no better book can be imagined. Here are some of the pertinent facts it contains:

Among the young countries of the American continents, Brazil belongs to the comparatively old ones, looking back on a history and traditions of three hundred years of white occupation. This is due principally to the location of northern Brazil in the tropics, which made it one of the countries fit for the production of sugar cane. The plantation system which belongs to that culture developed an aristocratic society of pure Portuguese descent, which, to this day, keeps strictly apart from the laboring classes of colored or mixed blood in a way not common in tropical America. In southern Brazil this distinction is not found, because the temperate climate allowed the settlement by white immigrants from Europe. Among the large cities of Brazil, Rio de Janeiro has, therefore, a character of its own for having been a colonial metropolis long before it became a modern capital.

This difference in the origin of the settlers of the northern and southern states of the republic accounts for some differences in their character and customs. The Portuguese class of the north still hold the larger part of the rural property, and this fact, in a country so preëminently agricultural, means the possession of a large portion of the national wealth and of political influence. That class has preserved the aristocratic, cultured and hospitable traditions of the colonial past, but it has not, on the other hand, remained immune against that influence of rural isolation which tends to produce indifference to matters outside one's immediate sphere of interest. The political and business life is, therefore, much more active in the southern states, where wealth and property are of more recent origin, and where the men of influence belong to the second and third generations.

The lower classes are immigrants everywhere. In São Paulo, the Italians form a fluctuating population of plantation hands in the coffee districts. In the other states of the south the absence of plantations obliged the foreigners to go

out into the wilderness as pioneers of civilization. It is there that they have formed those foreign settlements in which, owing to the isolation of the country, they have preserved their German, Polish and Morbihan-French customs and languages. In the tropical north, it is the descendants of the former slaves who furnish plantation hands in the sugar cane regions, and in the rubber districts, season laborers are supplied through an interesting domestic immigration. They are inhabitants of the province of Ceára, a race of Portuguese-Indian half-breeds, who are cowherds in their own country, but, in times of drought, earn their living as harvest hands in the Amazon basin, and thus form a steady supply of labor which, although not African, is used to the climate, and which is never exhausted either, as the Ceáreans are a very prolific race.

Urban populations are found only in Rio, São Paulo, and a few other large cities. Even there they can hardly be called native, as the majority are foreign merchants who live there for the sake of business, and who leave the country as soon as their fortunes are made. The only exception from this rule are the Portuguese, who, speaking the language of the country, are more inclined to found permanent homes there.

Topographically, Brazil consists of three parts: the coast, the plateau country back of it, and the central depression which belongs, in the north, to the Amazon basin, and in the south, to that of the Paraná. The salient feature in the political geography is, that the western boundary includes that depression in the north only, while in the south it runs along the border of the plateau, leaving the basin foreign territory. The escarpment of the plateau on the Atlantic side forms the Serra do Mar and the Serra Ceral. It extends far toward the south, attracting thither, by virtue of its elevation, the equatorial rainfall, which explains that "Serra" is the equivalent of "Forest." The forests are especially favored by the occurrence of a certain kind of diabase soil, so that to a certain degree the geological composition of the soil can be determined from a forest map. Contrary, therefore, to the German word "Wald," which, while meaning forest, is often used to designate a range of mountains, the word "Serra" in Brazil, while originally meaning a range of mountains, is very generally used to designate large tracts of forest. This explains why, on many maps of Brazil, mountain ranges have been found where the real country shows no trace of them; in all these cases it is a wooded country that misled the cartographer, by means of its name, to suppose that a mountain range was there.

The coastal Serras have not, like their seeming counterpart, the Appalachians, acted as a barrier to settlement. For, unlike the coastal plain of North America, that of Brazil is so unhealthy that the colonists could not found any permanent settlements there. They were thus obliged to penetrate into the hinterland at an early date, so that the plateau was opened up much more rapidly than the coast. The visitor from abroad is very much mistaken when, on arriving at the coast, and seeing the skyline of, as it were, virgin forest, which rises back of the coastal plain, he supposes that Brazil ends there. For the real Brazil only begins back of the Sierra, because the plateau contains the larger, as well as the most stable part of the population, while that of the coast is foreign and fluctuating.

Aside from its commercial function, the coast also acts as a highway between the different provinces, for the rivers of Brazil, in spite of their large sizes, are navigable only on certain reaches, and Porto Allegre, on the Rio Grande, is about the only place where a couple of navigable waterways converge. This

fact must not be overlooked when considering the prosperity of the German colonies in that neighborhood.

The country roads of Brazil are as poor as they are old, and some of them are very old. They would not be recognizable to-day were it not for the alignment along their former courses of farms and hamlets whose existence would be unintelligible to one not knowing that once upon a time a road was running by there. The doom of the roads was caused by the railroads because, as soon as the government began to build the latter, it ceased to take care of the former. The monopoly of the railroads in Brazil is, therefore, as complete as it is in the American West, and it has produced the same rate and tariff conditions as on the northern continent.

The most conspicuous feature in the recent development of Brazil is the shifting of economical leadership from the tropical to the temperate states, from Bahia and Pernambuco to São Paulo, from sugar and rubber to coffee. In this process, too, geographical influences have been at work. It is the above-named diabases whose detritus produces the "violet" soil especially suited for coffee, and the State of São Paulo is fortunate enough to possess plenty of that soil. There was a period in the early history of the state in which the hunt for violet soil was as lively as was the hunt for gold in the Far West. At that time—soon after the Civil War—a strong immigration set in, not only from Europe, but also from the United States, and many Southerners who had lost everything in the war, tried to begin life over again on the violet soil. By the side of Nova Fribourg and Nova Helvetia, Villa America has remained as a permanent witness of that period.

The present prosperous condition of that state ought, however, to be safeguarded against two imminent dangers: first, the exclusive devotion to one product, and a product for exportation only; for coffee is king in São Paulo, as cotton was in the old South. Secondly, the impossibility for the small property to hold its own against the overwhelming influence of the large land-owners. In the more southern states where coffee does not reign supreme, the small property dominates, and the foreign colonies of those states produce everything they need, and would be able even to export a large part of their abundance if there were only good markets for their products, or convenient connections with such markets at their disposal.

M. K. GENTHE.

AFRICA

Siwah. Die Oase des Sonnengottes in der libyschen Wüste. Von J. C. Ewald Falls. 48 pp. and 25 illustrations. Verlag von Kirchheim & Co., Mainz, 1910. Mk. 2. 10½ x 7½.

This is the latest of three reports on the Siwa Oasis published within the past four years. It does not attempt to compare with the two preceding studies in thorough scientific treatment. The Khedive of Egypt five years ago crossed the Libyan waste as far as the Siwa Oasis, the first ruler to make this journey since Alexander the Great in 332 B. C. Mr. Falls, a German scholar, participated in the expedition and has written for the general public this account of the journey and description of the famous Oasis of Jupiter Ammon. His first chapter is given to the Khedival caravan route, which largely coincided with that of Alexander the Great. In the second chapter he describes the oasis and its culture, its industries, commerce, flora and fauna. The town of Siwa and its widespread monuments of earlier days are sketched in the third chapter,